tests/investigations fixed by the Government in the said O.M. Therefore, there is no discrimination in the reimbursement of medical expenses to serving beneficiaries and pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Tackling Thalassaemia

21. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how the dreaded diseases like Thalassaemia are being tackled by Government;

(b) whether his Ministry has any plan to advocate compulsory blood testing to detect the carriers before marriage; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any awareness programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The curative treatment for Thalassaemia major is bone marrow transplantation which is available at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The facility to control Thalassaemia by preventing birth of Thalassaemic children by genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis of the affected foetus during pregnancy and terminating the same is available at Institute of Immunohaematology (Indian Council of Medical Research), Mumbai; Department of Genetics at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Wadia Children Hospital, Mumbai.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry at this stage.

(c) A research project entitled "Community Control of Thalassaemia syndromes awareness, screening. Genetic counseling and Prevention" has been initiated by Indian Council of Medical Research.

Losses in Medical Stores Depot

22. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH ANC FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Medical Stores Depot has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that establishment cost has increased almost double during the five years period from 1994-95 to 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the justification thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that most of the medicines purchased was through local suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research Projects at AIIMS

23. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of research projects at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi are held up for want of animals to conduct experiments;

(b) if so, since when these projects are at a standstill;

(c) whether any talks with those opposing animal experimentation have been held to break the impasse; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A large number of research projects at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) were held up or delayed due to the objections raised by the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) or its nominee in the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC). Annexure detailing a list of such projects is enclosed [*See* Appendix 196 Annexure No. 4], CPCSEA nominee has very recently cleared 43 projects involving small animals, Six projects involving larger animals are pending with CPCSEA for clearance for periods ranging between 1 to 2 years.

All the issues relating to role of CPCSEA on Medical research and amendments to rules, procedures etc, that may be needed, has been taken up with Committee of Secretaries.

Interference of Animal Rights Activists in Bio-Medical Research Work

24. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH :

DR. ALADI P. RAJKUMAR :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether over-enthusiasm of Animal Rights Activists in interfering in Bio-Medical Research Work;